text. But, it is certainly true that insofar as the ISI activities are concerned, we are in touch with all the States, all the four Southern States, and trying to see that a coordinated effort between the Centre and the States ensures that these heinous activities are stopped.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the insurgent groups in the North-Eastern States are being aided and equipped with sophisticated arms by international agencies and the ISI of Pakistan. In the meantime, during the last few months, they have stepped up their activities. They are indulging in kidnappings, killings, abductions and extortions. They are growing. I want to know whether the hon. Home Minister—the hon. Defence Minister is also here—will extend necessary help to these States to contain the activities of the extremist groups which are being aided by the ISI and other groups?

My second point is, Our Chief Minister, i.e., the Chief Minister of Tripura, and MPs have met the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Defence Minister. They had given an assurance that necessary help would be extended to the State Governments to contain these activities. But, so far, nothing has been done. I want to know when would the necessary help to contain the activities of the insurgent groups be extended? Sir, it is not a normal law and order problem. This relates to the integrity and unity of the country. So, I want an assurance from the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Defence Minister, who is here, as to when the necessary help, particularly, army and paramilitary forces which are required for Tripura, would be sent.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, on that subject there is a separate Question. It is Question No. 47...*(Interruptions)*)...

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, the supplementary is related to this Question.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Sir, my question is relating to the ISI activities. My supplementary relates to the original question.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I agree with the hon. Member that the violence some of the North-Eastern States are witnessing is not a deterioration of law and order. It is a threat to the integrity of the country. Therefore, it is not merely the responsibility of the State Governments alone, but it is also the responsibility of the Centre. Therefore, throughout these eight to nine months, I have been in constant touch with all the Chief Ministers. It happens that four States are worst-affected and the other four States are less-affected and that includes Tripura. We are constantly monitoring the situation and assisting the Governments in dealing with insurgency there. It is also true that the ISI has been assisting and even training some militants who are active in those regions. It is also true. Therefore, we are conscious of the requirements of the States. I would like to say that, within our available resources, we give them all necessary assistance.

Competition among ambitious Commanders in counter insurgency operations in J&K

*43. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in The Hindustan Times, dated the 8th November, 1998, under the caption "Troops cracking due to commanders' one-upmanship" wherein it has been stated that intense competition among ambitious commanders in counter insurgency operations (CI) has drawn officers and jawans in Kashmir to suicide and insanity and some combat units have been on continuous CI operation for almost ten years; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to improve matters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 08 November, 1998 under the caption "Troops cracking due to Commanders, One-upmanship".

The views expressed in the article are incorrect, out of context and far from the ground realities. The Indian Army has always been and remains a highly motivated force with very high morale.

Troops are regularly turned over after a two years' tenure in Counter-Insurgency Operations and no units have been deployed continuously for the last 10 years as stated in the question and the news report.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Chairman, Sir, our armed forces are doing a very good job in J & K. In fact, we should not allow them to be demoralised. But, there is a disturbing report which appeared in *The Hindustan Times* with a caption "Troops cracking due to Commanders' one-upmanship." This is based on the report submitted by a high-powered Committee set up by the Army. That is the report. This, as I stated, was based on a report which appeared in a official combat journal. And the paper submitted was "Psychological Aspects of CI Operations". According to a senior Army psychiatrist, who was a member of this high-powered committee, there is a general sense of anger and bitterness at not being able to deal with Jamiat, which though unarmed, is the real ideological motivator and financiers of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. There is an immense frustration at the failure of superior officers and the State to deal firmly with the Jamiat. This leads to erosion of confidence in themselves, their leaders and even in the future course of operation. Ultimately, what had happened? They said that it led to a situation like a highly rated non-commissioned officer gunning down his Commander, and three other key officers in the valley last year. At the same time, they further say that killing, abduction and capture of militants is the criterion for promotion. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he has taken a serious note of this. As stated earlier, we should not allow our army to be demoralised. Now, Sir, what is the criterion announced for promotion? What steps has the Government taken to prevent the cracking of the troops in order to boost the morale of the troops.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, in my answer I have already mentioned that there is nothing to worry about the morale of the troops. The hon. Member has now cited some extracts from a report, which, in trun, are extracts, not from one report, but from several reports, prepared over a period of time, some published and some unpublished. If such reports or studies are commissioned by the Army itself in certain situations, these are situation-specific. You have mentioned about the killing of an officer and three others. So, let us say, if there is a killing, and a situation of this nature happens, an incident of this nature happens, invariably there is a study. A psychiatric study is also made there to see as to why these incidents take place, and so on. There are also studies, which are routinely commissioned to see the impact of stress on the men, who are involved in counter-insurgency operations. They are not easy operations and I am sure most of us are aware of it. During the last eight months I have been to the areas where counter-insurgency operations are in progress—in the North-Eastern parts of India and in Jammu and Kashmir. I have been to those areas also where men are actually involved in constant operations. I would like to assure the House that while stress does take a toll in such a situation, the morale of the fighting forces is perfect. There is nothing to complain about. I notice that, in this particular report, there has been an effort

to sensationalise. Now, some officers have been quoted as saying, "The sentiment in Kashmir is similar to what the Americans faced in Vietnam. We are the unwilling, led by the unqualified, doing the unnecessary for the ungrateful." Now, I do not know who said this in the Vietnamese context. But, to say this in the context of Kashmir is, firstly, to insult all those officers and men there who are giving their lives and who are fighting a non-stop, constant, 24 hour proxy-war. They are taking casualties and they are inflicting casualties. But the fact of the matter is that, in these last 2 years, the Army has done extraordinarily well in Kashmir. Today, the Valley is more or less free from insurgency. The insurgency has shifted to some other parts and it is being dealt with there. So, I want to assure the House that wherever these incidents take place, studies are made, commissioned by the Army itself. And there are recommendations that flow out of both these types of studies. Those recommendations are implemented and steps are taken to see that whatever is wrong is rectified.

One other specific question which the hon. Member had put was this. What is the criterion for promotion? There is a set criterion for promotions. Promotions do not depend on a particular encounter or on a particular incident. Promotions do not depend on that. There will be a reward or an award. For the people who perform extraordinarily well, awards are granted by the President and also by the Army Chief. But, beyond that, I think it is just the duty that they do and the achievement in the field is what they look for as a reward for their performance.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, there was-and there is-a suggestion to set up a core group of psychologists to advice the Army. So far, what action has been taken to set up this core group of psychologists?

I would like to know whether the Government has taken note of the sacrifices that have been made by the soldiers who gave their lives; some have become handicapped also. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to enhance the compensation amount being given. If so, what are the details?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am not aware of any proposal to set up a Special Core Group of Psychologists. But the Army has a large number of psychologists and psychiatrists. And no such problem has emerged which has not been tackled by these personnel. If there had been any suggestion to set up a core group of psychologists, it has not come to my notice. I shall look into it and inform the hon. Member, or, I will inform the House.

Sir, so far as the compensation part is concerned, well, for the counter-insurgency operations, special allowances are paid. There is a Special Compensatory Counter-Insurgency Allowance which is now in the process of being enhanced. There have been recommendations and those recommendations are in the final stage of being processed. In the next few weeks, the existing counter-insurgency allowance will be enhanced. But, as of now, so far as the allowance given to the officers is concerned, it varies between Rs. 1,050/- and Rs. 1,300/- per month. And for other ranks, it is between Rs. 500/- and Rs. 900/- per month. Besides this, since most counter-insurgency operations are high altitude operations, there is a special high altitude allowance that is made available. Then, Sir, of course, it is not

Then, Sir, of course, it is not confined only to counter-insurgency, but in the event of any casualty, there is a substantial compensation that is paid. That compensation varies in accordance with the situation in which the casualty takes place. For instance, in the event of death occurring due to accidents in the course of performance of duties, there is a Rs. 5/- lakh compensation made available. In the event of death occurring in the course of performance of duties

attributable to the violence by terrorists, anti-social elements etc., there also the amount of compensation is Rs. 5/- lakhs. In the event of death occurring during the enemy action in international war or border skirmishes and action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc., the amount of compensation is Rs. 7.5 lakhs. In addition to this, there are various other compensatory payments also made to the family in terms of pension, gratuity and so on.

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद: माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, हमें बहुत गौरव है अपनी फौज और अपनी पैरा मिलिटरी फोर्सेज पर। वह बहुत ही कठिन समय में और ऐसे हालात में जम्मू-कश्मीर में काम कर रही है जबकि पाकिस्तान की तरफ से रेंगते हुए आतंकवादियों, आई०एस०आई० से उनको मुकाबला करना पड़ता है। उनके आधुनिक हथियारों का मुकाबला करना पड़ता है। हमें इस बात की खुशी है कि पिछले आठ-नौ वर्षों से वहां एक माहौल बना था जिसमें कश्मीर को सपोर्ट मिलती थी। आज वह सपोर्ट आई०एस०आई० या पाकिस्तान स्पॉन्सर्ड फोर्सेस के लिए, न होने के बराबर है। यह माहौल, वातावरण रोज-ब-रोज देश के हक में हो रहा है और आई०एस०आई० की और पाकिस्तान की थ्योरी को जम्मू-कश्मीर की जनता ठुकरा रही है। लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ कुछ ऐसी घटनाएं हो जाती हैं, मैं यह तो नहीं कहूंगा कि जानबूझकर हो जाती हैं लेकिन हो जाती हैं, जहां बेगुनाह लोग भी बीच में फंस जाते हैं। एक आध आतंकवादी अगर कहीं मोहल्ले या गांव में फंस गया तो उसको पकड़ने के लिए जो तरीका होता है वह नहीं अपनाया जाता है। जिसमें एक आतंकवादी तो मारा जाता है लेकिन साथ में और कई बेगुनाह लोग भी लपेटे में आ जाते हैं। यहां पर माननीय गृह मंत्री और रक्षा मंत्री दोनों ही मौजूद हैं, बहुत अच्छी बात है, मैं उनसे निवेदन करूंगा क्योंकि विन्टर खासतौर से ऐसा समय है जब वहां पर ज्यादा फोर्सेस के लिए काम होता है। वहां पर पहाड़ों से मिलिटेन्ट्स शहरों व गांवों में आ जाते हैं और फोर्स का काम ज्यादा बढ़ जाता है। इन लोगों को पकड़ने, कैप्चर करने में क्या ये फोर्सेस को, आर्मी को और पैरामिलिटरी फोर्सेस को हिदायत देंगे कि आई०एस०आई०, मिलिटेन्टस को पकड़ते समय पूरी एहतियात रखें। उसमें किसी भी बेगुनाह आदमी या साधारण आदमी के जानमाल का नुकसान न हो।

इस दफा मैं सितम्बर, अक्तूबर के महीने में तकरीबन वादी के सभी हिस्सों, लद्दाख और डोडा में घूमा तो पता चला कि जब भी यहां से अफसर जाते हैं तो वे उधमपुर, जम्मू व श्रीनगर से ही होकर वापस चले जाते हैं। असली इन्सरजेन्सी, मिलिटेन्सी तो डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल और गांव के लेवल तक होती है। अगर वे वहां जाकर अफसर को नहीं बताएंगे तो कैसे चलेगा वरना एक हुकम जो पांच साल पहले दिया गया है तो नीचे वाले उसी पर चलते हैं। उसमें डिफेन्स मिनिस्ट्री क्या करेगी?

आज भी थानों, पुलिस चौकियों में 303 बन्दूक होती हैं जिससे छोटी सी चिड़िया मारी जा सकती है। उससे पाकिस्तान के आतंकवादियों का मुकाबला नहीं किया जा सकता है। इसके लिए आपका मंत्रालय क्या करेगा? होम मिनिस्ट्री उनको आधुनिक हथियार देने के लिए क्या करेगी? मैं नहीं समझता कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के पास इतना पैसा है जिससे वह आधुनिक हथियार दे सकती हैं।

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज: सभापति महोदय, जहां तक काउंटर इनसरजेंसी में सेना के आप्रेशन का मामला है, माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना कि कभी-कभी ऐसी कुछ घटना घट जाती है, इसको नकारा नहीं जा सकता है। लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि काउंटर इनसरजेंसी का विशेष प्रशिक्षण सेना के उन लोगों को दिया जाता है जो काउंटर इनसरजेंसी आप्रेशन में भेजे जाते हैं। उन्हें यह भी बताया जाता है कि कितना ख्याल रख कर उनको अपना काम करना चाहिये ताकि कहीं भी किसी भी सिविलियन को हानि न हो। आपको याद होगा कि श्रीनगर के पास एक गांव है, मुझे उस गांव का नाम याद नहीं आ रहा है, लेकिन विदेशी प्रशिक्षण पा कर, विदेश से आए हुए 8-9 लोगों ने उस गांव के एक ही घर में घुस कर, उस घर को अपने ताबे में ले कर वहां अपना काम चला रहे थे। सेना को जानकारी मिली, सेना वहां पर पहुंच गई, 48 घंटे वह आप्रेशन चला, उस गांव में मैं भी गया था और शायद आप भी गये होंगे। उस गांव में या जिस घर में वह घुसे थे उस घर को अकेले पकड़ कर उस घर को निशाना बना कर, समूचे गांव को किसी भी प्रकार की हानि न हो, इसका ख्याल रख कर वह ऐक्शन उस समय हुआ था। ऐसे एक नहीं अनेक अनुभव आपने भी किये हैं और हम तो देख रहे हैं। इसलिए आपका जो कहना है कि सेना के अधिकारियों और जवानों को यह बात कही जाए कि वह ख्याल रखें, यों तो यह बात हमेशा उनके ख्याल में जरूर है मगर जहां कहीं भी ऐसी कोई घटना घट जाती है तो उसकी जांच भी हो जाती है और उनको समझाने की बात भी

कहीं जरूरत पड़े तो वह भी कही जाती है। इसमें कभी कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती है।

आपने पुलिस के बारे में जो प्रश्न पूछा उसका जवाब तो मैं नहीं दे पाऊंगा। वह फिर कभी गृह मंत्री जी जरूर दे देंगे। उन्होंने आपकी बातें सुनी हैं, इस पर जो भी कार्यवाही करनी है, मेरा विश्वास है, वह करेंगे।

Crimes in Delhi

*44. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a spurt in crimes involving robberies, dacoities and murders was noticed since June onwards in Delhi;

(b) if so, the figures of such crimes and the toll taken thereby in terms of human lives lost and property looted; and

(c) the steps taken to curb the crime and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The number of cases registered by Delhi Police from June, 1998 to October, 1998, crime-wise and month-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement. (See below). These included 285 cases of murder in which 297 persons were killed. Besides, property worth Rs. 3.38 crores (approx.) was lost during the same period in cases of robbery and dacoity.

The statistics reveals that though there was an increase in crime, both heinous and non-heinous, during the first two to three months of this period, it registered a downward trend during the subsequent two months. This became possible because of a number of measures taken by the Government. These included intensification of patrolling especially from 6.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M.; surveillance over the activities of known criminals; improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill repute and suspected hideouts of criminals; and high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas. This was backed by periodic reviews, at various levels of the police functioning in the National Capital Territory.

Statement

Number of cases registered by Delhi Police from June, 1998 to October, 1998—Crime-wise and Month-wise

		June	*July*	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*
A.	*Heinous Crimes*					
	Dacoity	6	9	6	7	5
	Murder	52	59	68	54	52
	Attempt to murder	61	65	58	67	49
	Robbery	93	99	73	73	71
	Rape	54	40	52	37	30
	Kidnapping for ransom	2	5	0	2	2
	Riot	19	31	18	13	12
	TOTAL:	287	308	275	253	221

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.